

REMARKS

Applicants acknowledge the allowance of Claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15, 18 and 19, with a clarifying amendment made to Claim 1 as suggested in the Office Action.

Only Claims 5, 6, 7, 10, 11, 16, 17, 20 and 21 remain rejected in this application.

Independent Claim 5, as amended, is to a covered wire having an electrical conductive core and a unicolor cover portion of synthetic resin for covering the core including a plurality of marks formed by coloring a part of an outer surface of the cover portion with a color, the marks disposed with a gap therebetween along lengthwise of the covered wire, wherein the marks are made by spouting a predetermined amount of a liquid coloring material of the color against the outer surface of the cover portion of the covered wire from a plurality of nozzles, all of which are oriented in the same direction toward the wire in a lengthwise direction of the wire. Independent Claim 10, as amended, is to a method of distinguishing covered wires including a step of forming a plurality of marks by coloring a part of an outer surface of a unicolor covered wire with a color. The marks are disposed with a gap therebetween lengthwise of the covered wire, whereby the color is selected respectively for the covered wires distinguishing each covered wire, wherein each mark is made by spouting a predetermined amount of a liquid coloring material of the color against the outer surface of the cover portion of the covered wire from a plurality of nozzles, all of which are oriented in the same direction toward the wire in a lengthwise direction of the wire.

In the Office Action, Claims 5, 10, 17 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Fitzgerald (U.S. 2,989,943); Claims 6, 7 and 11 as obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

in view of a combination of Fitzgerald and JP 10-31918; and Claims 16 and 20 as obvious in view of a combination of Fitzgerald and Johnstone (U.S. 1,931,610). Reconsideration and removal of these rejections are respectfully requested in view of the present amendments to the claims and the following remarks.

In response to the previous arguments relative to independent Claims 5 and 10, the Office Action states that Fitzgerald teaches a covered wire having an electrical conductive core and a unicolor cover portion of synthetic resin for covering the core comprising a plurality of marks with the marks disposed with a gap therebetween along lengthwise of the covered wire, where the marks are made by spouting a predetermined amount of a liquid coloring material of the color against the outer surface of the cover portion of the covered wire from a plurality of nozzles (20, 21), and that the nozzles are oriented in the same direction toward the wire (all the nozzles are oriented in an axial direction or axially toward the wire) where the color is selected respectively for each wire to distinguish each covered wire.

As noted by the Office Action, however, the nozzles are oriented in a direction that is an axial direction relative to the wire. In the present invention, the plurality of nozzles are oriented in the same direction toward the wire in a lengthwise direction of the wire, as noted in the specification and drawings. Claims 5 and 10 have been amended to emphasize this distinction. Applicants respectfully submit that the secondary references do not cure the defects of Fitzgerald.

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. **10/536,458**
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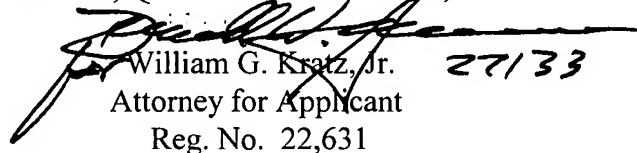
In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Claims 1-21, as amended, are believed to be patentable and in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the applicants undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, the applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

KRATZ, QUINTOS & HANSON, LLP


William G. Kratz, Jr. 27133
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 22,631

WGK/ak

Atty. Docket No. **050355**
Suite 400
1420 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005
(202) 659-2930



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